AMENDMENTS

TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2 of the specification, please amend the first paragraph of the *Detailed Description of the Invention* as follows:

The present invention provides a pharmaceutical composition comprising metaxalone and pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, characterized in that the pharmaceutical composition has an enhanced bioavailability as compared to [the conventional pharmaceutical compositions of] metaxalone [known in the art] tablets commercially available in the United States of America under the trade name Skelaxin®.

The term "enhanced bioavailability" as referred to herein means that in comparative bioavailability study wherein Skelaxin® tablet as reference product and the pharmaceutical composition of the present invention having an amount of metaxalone equivalent to that in the reference Skelaxin® tablet are given to human volunteers under fasted conditions (on an empty stomach), the ratio of area under the plasma concentration versus time curve for the test versus the reference product is greater than 120%. The pharmaceutical composition of the present invention may also be a controlled or sustained release composition whereby the term "enhanced bioavailability" means that in a comparative bioavailability study wherein Skelaxin® tablet as the reference product is given in multiple doses and the controlled release pharmaceutical composition of the present invention having a total amount of metaxalone equivalent to the amount in the multiple doses of Skelaxin® is given to human volunteers under fasted conditions; the ratio of area under the plasma concentration versus time curve for the test versus the reference product is greater than 120%.